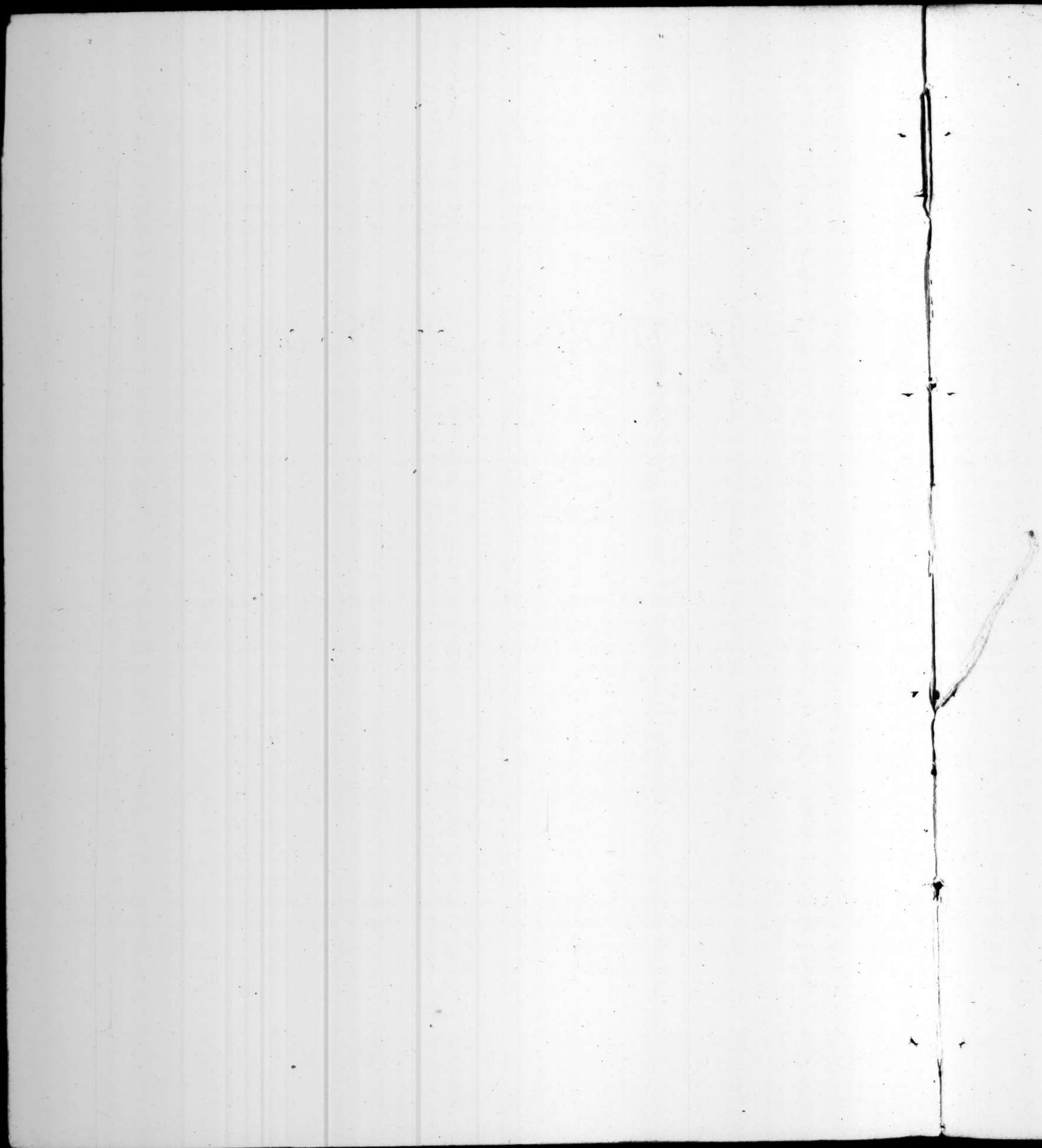


81

HIS MAJESTY'S
COMMISSION
For Establishing a CHARITY for Relief of
POOR WIDOWS
O F
Commission *and* Warrant Officers
O F T H E
Royal Navy.



GEORGE the Second,
 by the Grace of GOD, of *Great Britain, France, and Ireland*, King,
 Defender of the Faith, &c. To Our Right
 Trusty and Well-beloved Cousin and Counsellor
George Viscount Torrington, Our Trusty and
 Well-beloved Sir *Charles Wager* Knight, Sir
Thomas Littleton Baronet, *Archibald Hamil-*
ton Esquire, commonly called Lord *Archibald*
Hamilton, Sir *Thomas Frankland* Baronet,
Thomas Winnington and *Thomas Clutterbuck*
 Esquires, Our Commissioners for Executing the
 Office of High Admiral of *Great Britain* and
Ireland, and Our High Admiral, or Com-
 missioners for Executing the Office of High
 Admiral of *Great Britain* and *Ireland* for the
 Time being; Sir *John Jennings*, Sir *John*
Norris, Sir *George Walton*, Knights; *Salmon*
Morrice, *Philip Cavendish*, *John Balchen*,
Charles Stewart, Esquires, and Sir *George*
Saunders Knight, Flag-Officers of Our Fleet,
 and the Flag-Officers of Our Fleet for the
 Time being; *Pattee Byng* Esquire, Treasurer
 A 2 of

of Our Navy, and the Treasurer of Our Navy for the Time being ; the Secretary or Secretaries to Our High Admiral, or Commissioners for Executing the Office of High Admiral for the Time being ; *James Mighells* Esquire, *Sir Jacob Acworth* Knight, *Thomas Pearce*, *John Fawler*, *Robert Byng*, Esquires, *Vere Beauclerk* Esquire, commonly called Lord *Vere Beauclerk*, *Sir Nicholas Trevanion* Knight, *Thomas Kempthorne* and *Richard Hughes*, Esquires, Commissioners of Our Navy, and the Commissioners of Our Navy for the Time being ; the Paymaster and Cashire of Our Navy now and for the Time being ; *Sir Stafford Fairborne*, *Sir Edward Whitaker*, *Sir Thomas Hardy*, Knights, late Flag-Officers of Our Fleet ; *Thomas Harlow*, *Joseph Soanes*, *Thomas Liell*, *George Breholt*, *John Huntington*, *Thomas Stepney*, *Baron Wylde*, *Richard Culliford*, *Richard Haddock*, *John Aldred*, *Tudor Trevor*, *William Moses*, *Bennet Allen*, *Henry Lord Maynard*, *Stephen Martin Leake*, *Robert Thompson*, *Charles Smith*, *Thomas Meads*, *Joseph Tayler*, and *Jordan Sandys*, Captains in Our Navy ; *John Lambert*, *James Westcomb*, *William Weigham*, *John Morris*, *Thomas Russel*, *John Constable*, *George Topsham*, *Thomas Tiddeman*, *Yard Eastley*, and *William Carr*, Lieutenants in Our Navy ; *Benjamin Clarke*, *Isaac Walker*, *Peircy Brett*, *John Price*, and *Walter Hughes*, Masters in
Our

Our Navy ; *John Underell, John Oldmeade, Richard Price, William Robinson, and Robert Preston*, Boatswains in Our Navy ; *John Webb, Charles Norman, Thomas Pledge, James Mun-kin, and John Bowman*, Gunners in Our Navy ; *John Mowberry, Philip Markham, John Hunt, John Bately, and William Vidgeon*, Carpenters in Our Navy ; *Robert Rogers, Israel Alford, John Steele, Jonathan Conduit, and William Walter*, Purfers in Our Navy ; *Joseph Purcell, Frederick Donniger, John Bedell, John Langford, and Alexander King*, Surgeons in Our Navy, Greeting.

WHEREAS by a Memorial of the Lords Commissioners of Our Admiralty, setting forth, Preamble re-citing the Memorial of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty. that the said Lords Commissioners of Our Admiralty having been long sensible of the Poor and Indigent Circumstances that many Officers of Our Navy do leave their Families in after their Death ; for whose Support there is no Establishment, as there is for the Widows of the Officers of the Army ; and having applied their Thoughts how to find out some Provision or Means of Relieving the Necessities of the Widows of such Poor Officers, they are of Opinion, that the same may in some Measure be provided for by a voluntary Agreement and Consent of the Commission and Warrant Officers of the Navy, to allow of an Abatement of Three Pence in

in the Pound out of their Pay and Half-Pay, and that the Fund arising thereby, as well as such other Benefactions which well-disposed Persons may at any Time contribute, should be put under the Management of a Body of Men empowered by Us for that Purpose, to be applied to the Relief of Poor Widows, as aforesaid : And in order to know whether the Officers of Our Navy would be willing to consent to such Abatement, and also to apprise them of the Nature of the Design, the said Lords Commissioners had caused some of the intended Rules for the Management of the said Charity to be printed and lodged at their Office, and also at Our *Navy-Office*, and at such of Our Ports where there are Naval Officers, and had made Publication in the *Gazette* and other Papers, for such Commission and Warrant Officers of Our Navy as were in the Way or Neighbourhood, to go and peruse the said Scheme, and if they approved of it, to subscribe their Names thereto : And finding upon the Returns of the said Subscriptions, that most of the Officers of Our Navy, of every Class, who were at Home, have accordingly subscribed their Names, and not having heard of any Dislike or Disapprobation thereof from any other Officers of Our Navy, the said Lords Commissioners have Reason to think, that the same will be in general acceptable

ceptable to them, and do hope, that great Good may arise therefrom, by keeping the Families of many poor Officers from Want and Misery: But as this good Design could not be accomplished without Our Grace and Favour, the said Lords Commissioners did therefore humbly pray, that We would be graciously pleased to direct, That Three-pence in the Pound be abated for the future, from the Personal Pay and Half Pay of all Flag Officers, Captains, Lieutenants, Masters, Boat-swains, Gunners, Carpenters, Purfers and Surgeons, belonging to Our Royal Navy; and also from such Pensions as should be hereafter granted upon the Ordinary Estimate of Our Navy to any Officers of the Ranks above-mentioned, who, before the Enjoyment of such Pensions, did pay the aforesaid Deductions; and that We would be pleased to empower the Persons herein after named to Receive, Manage, and Dispose, as well the Monies arising from the said Abatements, as all such other Benefactions which well-disposed Persons might at any Time contribute, amongst the Poor Widows of such of the aforesaid Officers, as have contributed thereto in their Life-time, under such Rules and Regulations as should be made for that Purpose. *Now know ye*, That We being willing to give Encouragement to so good and cha-

*Three-pence
in the Pound
to be deducted
from the Per-
sonal Pay,
Half-Pay
and Pensions
of the Offi-
cers of the
Navy.*

*Names of the
Governors of
the Charity.*

ritable an Undertaking, and being extremely desirous to promote and carry on the same, of our especial Grace, certain Knowledge, and meer Motion, *have* ordained, directed, and appointed, and by these Presents, do ordain, direct, and appoint, that from and after the Date of these Our Letters Patents, for and towards the Relief of Poor Widows of Commission and Warrant Officers of Our Royal Navy, Three-pence in the Pound be abated and deducted from the Personal Pay and Half-Pay of all Flag-Officers, Captains, Lieutenants, Masters, Boatswains, Gunners, Carpenters, Purfers and Surgeons, belonging to Our Royal Navy; and also from all such Pensions as from and after the Date of these Our Letters Patents, shall be granted upon the ordinary Estimate of the Navy, to any such Officers from whose Pay or Half-Pay any such Deductions shall have been made before the Granting such Pensions respectively: And for the better ordering, managing, and directing the Affairs relating to the said Charity, *Know ye further*, that We reposing especial Trust and Confidence in your known Discretions, Abilities, and Integrities, *Have* nominated, authorized, and appointed, and by these Presents, *Do* nominate, authorize, and appoint You the said *George Viscount Torrington, Sir Charles Wager, Sir Thomas Littleton,*

Littleton, Lord Archibald Hamilton, Sir Thomas Frankland, Thomas Winnington and Thomas Clutterbuck, Our Commissioners for Executing the Office of High Admiral of Great-Britain and Ireland, and Our High Admiral, or Commissioners for Executing the Office of High Admiral of Great-Britain and Ireland for the Time being; Sir John Jennings, Sir John Norris, Sir George Walton, Salmon Morrice, Philip Cavendish, John Balchen, Charles Stewart, and Sir George Saunders, Flag-Officers of Our Fleet, and the Flag-Officers of Our Fleet for the Time being; Pattee Byng, Treasurer of Our Navy, and the Treasurer of Our Navy for the Time being; the Secretary or Secretaries to Our High Admiral, or Commissioners for Executing the Office of High Admiral for the Time being; James Mighells, Sir Jacob Acworth, Thomas Pearce, John Fawler, Robert Byng, Lord Vere Beauclerk, Sir Nicholas Trevanion, Thomas Kempthorne and Richard Hughes, Commissioners of Our Navy, and the Commissioners of Our Navy for the Time being; the Paymaster and Cashire of Our Navy now and for the Time being; Sir Stafford Fairborne, Sir Edward Whitaker, and Sir Thomas Hardy, late Flag-Officers of Our Fleet; Thomas Harlow, Joseph Soanes, Thomas Liell, George Breholt, John Huntington, Thomas Stepney, Baron Wylde,

*Wylde, Richard Culliford, Richard Haddock,
 John Aldred, Tudor Trevor, William Moses,
 Bennet Allen, Henry Lord Maynard, Stephen
 Martin Leake, Robert Thompson, Charles
 Smith, Thomas Meads, Joseph Tayler, and
 Jordan Sandys, Captains in Our Navy ; John
 Lambert, James Westcomb, William Wheigh-
 ham, John Morris, Thomas Russel, John
 Constable, George Topsham, Thomas Tidde-
 man, Yard Eastley, and William Carr, Lieu-
 tenants in Our Navy ; Benjamin Clarke, Isaac
 Walker, Peircy Brett, John Price, and Wal-
 ter Hughes, Masters in Our Navy ; John
 Underell, John Oldmeade, Richard Price,
 William Robinson, and Robert Preston, Boat-
 swains in Our Navy ; John Webb, Charles
 Norman, Thomas Pledge, James Munkin, and
 John Bowman, Gunners in Our Navy ; John
 Mowberry, Philip Markham, John Hunt,
 John Bately, and William Vidgeon, Car-
 penters in Our Navy ; Robert Rogers, Israel
 Alford, John Steele, Jonathan Conduit, and
 William Walter, Purfers in Our Navy ; Jo-
 seph Purcell, Frederick Donniger, John Be-
 dell, John Langford, and Alexander King,
 Surgeons in Our Navy, to be Our Com-
 missioners or Governors of the Charity, for
 the Relief of poor Widows of Commission
 and Warrant Officers of Our Royal Navy
 aforesaid. And to the End Our Royal Pur-
 pose*

pose and Intention herein may the better take Effect, Our Will and Pleasure is, and We do hereby order, direct, and appoint, that you do from Time to Time meet together at some convenient Place for the Execution of this our Commission: And We do hereby also ordain and appoint, that there be and shall be, a President, Two Vice Presidents, a Court of Assistants, and a Treasurer of the said Charity in manner herein after directed, and that the first Commissioner for executing the Office of Our High Admiral of *Great-Britain*, or Our High Admiral of *Great-Britain* for the Time being, be and shall be always President; and Our Treasurer of Our Navy for the Time being, be and shall be always Treasurer of the said Charity; and We have hereby nominated, assigned, and appointed, and do by these Presents nominate, assign, and appoint you the said Sir *Charles Wager* and Lord *Archibald Hamilton*, to be the Two first Vice Presidents of the said Charity; to continue in your several and respective Offices until the last *Thursday* in *March* next ensuing the Date hereof: And for that many of you Our said Commissioners cannot conveniently meet, in order to carry on Our Royal Intentions in the Premises, by reason whereof many Inconveniencies may ensue, We therefore

*Governors to
meet at some
convenient
Place.*

*There shall be
a President,
Two Vice-
Presidents, a
Court of As-
sistants, and
a Treasurer.*

fore have thought fit, and do by these Presents declare and appoint you the said Sir *Thomas Lyttelton*, Sir *Thomas Frankland*, *Thomas Winnington*, *Thomas Clutterbuck*, Sir *John Jennings*, Sir *John Norris*, Sir *George Walton*, *Salmon Morrice*, *Philip Cavendish*, *John Balchen*, *Charles Stewart*, Sir *George Saunders*, *James Mighells*, Lord *Vere Beauclerk*, and *Richard Haddock*, to be Assistants of the said Charity, and to be and be stiled the Court of Assistants of the said Charity, to continue in your said several and respective Offices, until the last *Thursday* in *March* next ensuing the Date hereof; and

*Five or more
to constitute a
Court of As-
sistants.*

the said Assistants, or any five, or more of them, whereof the President or one of the Vice-Presidents, or the Treasurer of the said Charity for the Time being to be always one, shall constitute a Court: And the said Court of Assistants shall and may do and dispatch by Majority of Votes any Business relating to the Government, or Affairs of the said Charity; and also hear, debate, and determine any Complaint or Matter that shall be brought or exhibited in the said Court, touching the Affairs of the said Charity, and shall and may call to their Aid and Assistance such Persons as the said Court or the Majority of them assembled, as aforesaid, shall think fit, to aid, assist, and advise
the

*Court of As-
sistants to
have the
whole Ma-
nagement of
the Business
of the Cha-
rity.*

the said Court, in the due and effectual Execution of the Powers and Authorities hereby Granted. And Our Will and Pleasure is, and We do hereby order, direct, and appoint, that the said Court of Assistants shall have the whole Government, Management, and Direction of all the Affairs and Business of the said Charity, as they shall judge necessary for the well ordering and governing of the same. And We do hereby give full Power and Authority, and require and command you the said Assistants of the said Charity, or any Five or more of you, whereof the President, or one of the Vice-Presidents, or the Treasurer to be always one, to meet once in every Month, at least, or oftner if Occasion shall require, to consult concerning the Affairs of the said Charity: And Our further Will and Pleasure is, and We do hereby require you Our said Commissioners, or any Seven or more of you, whereof the President, or one of the Vice-Presidents, or the Treasurer, to be always one, from Time to Time to summon, appoint, hold, and keep, upon every last *Thursday* in *February* Yearly, after *February* in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty and Two, a General Court to be assembled, to elect two Vice-Presidents, and fifteen Assistants for the Year ensuing, who shall enter on their Employments

Court of Assistants to meet once a Month.

Seven Commissioners to make a General Court.

Time and Manner of their Meeting.

*A General
Court to be
held at any
Time upon
fourteen Days
Notice to fill
up Vacancies.*

*Court of As-
sistants to pro-
pose Rules for
the Govern-
ment of the
Charity to be
approved by
His Majesty.*

ments on the last *Thursday* in *March* follow-
ing; and that one, at least, of the Vice- Pre-
sidents, and one third of the Number of As-
sistants shall be changed at every such annual
Election, Notice being in that Behalf given,
by inserting the same in the *London Gazette*,
or otherwise, fourteen Days before the Holding
of every such General Court: And We also
Will, and by these Presents do grant, and or-
dain, that when Vacancies shall happen of the
two Vice-Presidents, or either of them, or in
the Court of Assistants of the said Charity, by
Death or otherwise, that you Our said Com-
missioners or Governors, or any Seven, or more
of you, whereof the President, or one of the
Vice-Presidents, or the Treasurer, to be always
one, upon fourteen Days Notice, as aforesaid,
shall and may from Time to Time summon,
and hold a General Court, to be assembled to
fill up such Vacancies out of the rest of you the
said Commissioners or Governors. And for the
better effecting Our Will and Pleasure in these
Presents declared, We do hereby authorize and
command the said Assistants, or any Five, or
more of them (whereof the President, or one
of the Vice-Presidents, or Treasurer to be al-
ways one) in Court assembled, to consider of,
consult, agree upon, draw up, prepare, and
propose in Writing to Us, such proper and ne-
cessary Rules, Methods, Orders, and Directions

as

as the said Court shall in their Discretions judge most convenient to be observed for and towards the better Rule and Government of the said Charity, and the Members thereof; and the receiving, accounting for, and managing the same; and also for and concerning the distributing, paying, and disposing of the said Charity, and all other Gifts and Benevolences that shall or may be given or bequeathed to, and for the charitable Ends aforesaid, to and amongst the poor Widows of such Commission and Non-Commission Officers, as aforesaid, and such Rules, Methods, Orders, and Directions as shall be so proposed, and shall be appointed, altered, or amended, by Us, and such as shall be made by Us, and so signified and declared by Us, under our Royal Sign Manual, We will shall be the Rules, Methods, Orders, and Directions by which the said Court of Assistants shall receive, manage, govern, apply, and dispose the said Charity, and other Gifts and Benevolences which shall or may hereafter be given or bequeathed to the said Charity, (whereof the Donors shall not particularly direct the Application) to and for the Increase of the same. And We do further by these Presents Grant unto the said Court of Assistants, that they shall and may have such inferior Officers and Servants as the said Court shall by a Majority of Votes think

Court of Assistants may appoint inferior Officers.

*The Treasur-
er to take an
Oath before
he enters on
his Office.*

fit to chuse and elect, which inferior Officers and Servants so elected, We hereby will and ordain, shall continue in their several and respective Offices during the Pleasure of the said Court. Provided always, and We do by these Presents ordain, and appoint, that the Treasurer of the said Charity now and for the Time being, shall, before he take upon him the Execution of his said Office, take his Corporal Oath for the due and faithful Execution of his said Office, before the Court of Assistants aforesaid, who are hereby authorized and required to give and administer the said Oath from Time to Time accordingly.

*The Gover-
nors may re-
ceive any vo-
luntary Gifts,
Subscriptions,
&c.*

And having no Doubt that not only the Governors herein before-named and constituted, but also a great Number of our good Subjects will be disposed with great Chearfulness and Readiness, to contribute to the further Encrease of the said Charity, We do by these Presents authorize and empower the Governors aforesaid, or any Seven or more of them, to take and receive from such our good Subjects, as shall be piously inclined to contribute to the Increase of the said Charity, all such voluntary Gifts or Subscriptions of any Sum or Sums of Money, Goods, or Chattels, which any Person or Persons, Bodies Politick or Corporate, shall be willing to give, limit, appoint, or bestow, for or towards the further
Increase

Increase of the said Charity ; and further to
 cause to be collected and received whatsoever
 shall be given, contributed, bequeathed, de-
 signed, or appointed for the Purposes afore-
 said, by the Hands of the Treasurer to the said
 Charity hereby constituted, who is hereby au-
 thorized to receive the same. And to the
 End, our Royal Intention in the Premises may *Publick No-*
 be better known to our loving Subjects, We do *tice to be gi-*
 hereby require the said Court of Assistants to *ven of this*
 cause publick Notice of this our Commission, *Commission.*
 or the Tenor or Scope thereof, to be made in
 such Places, and by such Ways and Means as
 the said Court shall think most convenient for
 the Furtherance of the Charity aforesaid. And
 We do hereby authorize and empower the *Court of As-*
 said Court of Assistants, in case the said Court *sistants may*
 shall find it necessary for carrying on, and *depute Per-*
 perfecting Our Royal Intentions in the Pre- *sons to take*
 mises, by Instruments or Writings under their *Subscriptions,*
 Hands and Seals, to depute and substitute *collect Mo-*
 such Persons as they shall think fit to intrust to *nies, &c.*
 take such Subscriptions aforesaid, and to col-
 lect and bring in the Monies which shall be
 contributed, bequeathed, designed, or appoint-
 ed for the Ends and Purposes aforesaid, to the
 Hands of the Treasurer of the said Charity;
 and to displace or discharge such Substitutes
 or Deputies, or any of them; and to appoint
 others

*And appoint
Cheques on
the Treasu-
rer.*

*And may ex-
amine Wit-
nesses upon
Oath, con-
cerning
Frauds, &c.*

*To keep a
Book of the
Names of
Benefactors,
&c.*

others in the Place or Places of them, or any of them, from Time to Time, as the said Court shall see Cause; and also to settle, establish, and appoint such Cheques, Comptrolls, and Orders, as they shall think necessary or safe for the full or due charging of the Treasurer, and also the said Deputies, and all and every other Person and Persons whatsoever, who shall receive or be chargeable with any Monies or other Profits for the said charitable Use or Purpose, to answer, pay, or account for the same; and that the said Court of Assistants from Time to Time, as often as they shall suspect any Concealment, Fraud, Deceit, or indirect Practice, in reference to any Monies, or other Things, subscribed, contributed, given, bequeathed, or appointed, to the said Use, shall and may enquire thereof, by the Examination of Witnesses upon Oath, which the said Court of Assistants are hereby authorized to administer, or by any other lawful Ways or Means, whereby the Truth of the Matter in all such Cases may be best known. And we do hereby authorize, require, and command the said Court of Assistants, from Time to Time, to cause to be entred in a Book to be kept for that Purpose, the Names of the Persons who shall subscribe or contribute, give, devise, or appoint,

appoint, any Monies, Goods, or Chattels, towards this good and charitable Design, with the Sums of Money, Goods and Chattels by them respectively contributed, given, limited or appointed, to the End a perpetual Memorial may be made of all such well-disposed Persons who shall become Benefactors as aforesaid, and whereby the Treasurer to the said Charity may be charged with more certainty in his Accounts.

And Our further Will and Pleasure is, and We do hereby give full Power and Authority unto the Treasurer of the said Charity for the Time being, from Time to Time, upon the Receipt or Receipts of any Sum or Sums of Money, or other Profits for the Purposes aforesaid, or any of them, to give an Acquittance or Acquittances for the same, which shall be good and sufficient Discharges to all Intents and Purposes whatsoever. And the said Treasurer for the Time being, in Receipts, Payments, and Accounts, shall be subject to such Inspection, Examination and Comptroll as the said Court of Assistants shall establish or appoint. *And lastly*, We do hereby grant and declare, that these Our Letters Patents, or the Inrollment thereof, shall be to you and every of you a sufficient Warrant and Discharge in this Behalf. *In Witness* whereof, We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patents. *Witness* CAROLINE, *Queen of Great Britain,*

*Treasurer to
give Receipts
and Acquittances.*

(22)

Britain, &c. *Guardian of the said Realm, &c.*
at Westminster the Thirtieth Day of August,
in the Sixth Year of Our Reign.

By Writ of Privy Seal,

Bisse & Bray.